

# Conspiracy for Thaw's Escape From Asylum Carefully Planned

## MOTHER IS GLAD OF SON'S ESCAPE

Mrs. Mary Copley Thaw Says It Came as Surprise to Her.

CONSENTS TO INTERVIEW

Expects to Hear From Harry When He Reaches Safe Place.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

New York, August 17.—"Harry's escape was like a thunderclap out of a clear sky to me, but I can't say that I am sorry," was the comment made to-night by Mrs. Mary Copley Thaw on the sensational flight of her son from Matteawan.

Mrs. Thaw had at first refused to see reporters, but later consented to receive them.

"I was never more astonished in my life than when I heard of this thing at 3 o'clock this afternoon," she continued. "I learned of it from my daughter (Mrs. Carnegie), who heard of it through the newspapers. I have not the slightest idea how it all happened, nor can I guess where Harry is now."

"I suppose he will communicate with me as soon as he gets where he is safe. He is too intelligent to take any chances before he does reach a safe place. Further than the fragmentary reports from newspaper men, I know nothing. I have a letter which Harry wrote Saturday morning, and he said nothing about intending to leave."

The letter was on a plain sheet of paper, such as is used by stenographers. Everything but the signature is typewritten, and it is dated August 15, no year being appended. The space sufficient to hold a large paragraph has been cut out. The pieces were then fastened together with small green seals.

**Explains Motivation.**

In response to a question, Mrs. Thaw explained the motivation of the letter. "I cut that out," she said, "because I referred to two men, lawyers, whom I had never heard of before. It had nothing to do with this case."

She refused to name the men or to show the missing portion of the letter. In its incomplete form, the letter follows:

"Mrs. Mary C. Thaw, Hotel Gotham, New York."

"Dear Mother,—Mr. Van Amey told me that you are starting. I'm glad it's not very hot, and hope you have an easy trip. A couple of days ago I wrote your letter, and the letter reached you before you left home. The only thing immediate was to ask you to telephone to Mr. Shearn's office and learn just when he gets back."

A paragraph was cut out here and the letter continued:

"I hope Margaret and George return safe and well. That was curious about Copenhagen, when they were given a reception, though it was Uncle George. I suppose that I saw him. The only thing immediate was to ask you to telephone to Mr. Shearn's office and learn just when he gets back."

"Will they come with you or later? It is better to divide the visits. If you don't feel very well Monday, please postpone the visit for it is better to take things easy."

"Your affectionate son,

"HARRY."

The signature was written in pencil, in remarkably small letters.

"That doesn't look like Harry's usual signature," said one of the reporters. "I'll see." "I suppose," said Mrs. Thaw, going to a desk and taking out several letters. "Yes, the same," she said. "Only larger."

The envelope was not shown nor were the reporters allowed to compare the signature with those on the letters.

"Harry is in the commissary department," you know, said Mrs. Thaw when asked if her son had the use of a typewriter. "I suppose he wrote this while he was at work and had nothing else handy. It doesn't look as if he intended to leave before I came."

"Do you know whether he ever considered the plan of escaping by force?" Mrs. Thaw was asked.

"People have mentioned it to him," she replied. "He had plenty of opportunities before the hearings and several people said to him, 'Why don't you take leg bail, but he always refused to consider it then. Never, in all the time I have been with him, have we discussed the possibility of escape through any other means than the law.'

**Calls Russell Perjuror.**

"Isn't it about time that he got out of there—a sane man, proved so before the courts, confined with a lot of lunatics in an asylum for the criminal insane. I think it is, and he would have been before the courts if not for that perjurer, Dr. Russell."

"It was that man's testimony that kept him there the last time he tried to get free."

"Have you any idea who the men were that were with Harry?" she was asked.

"Isn't there a relative of Harry's in New England?"

"Only Andrew Carnegie, the younger, and he isn't the sort of a man to mix up in an affair of this sort," Mrs. Thaw answered. "He has a place in Massachusetts, but I don't suppose that he heard of this or would be interested in it if he did."

"As to Roger O'Mara, so far as I know, he is in Pittsburgh. I haven't heard from him recently and I don't know where he is, but I am almost certain that he is in Pennsylvania. Harry has plenty of friends in New York, some of whom go up to see him."

"Can you tell me why it is they offer a reward of \$500 for Harry? The regular amount is only \$50, and I've seen it collected time and again by persons who brought back an escaped inmate. I suppose it's because it makes a bigger show, and they want to make a bigger show than a sane man like Harry than they do when a lunatic goes wandering away. Of course, it will induce more people to try to find him."

The following telegram was received at Matteawan this afternoon from Mrs. Copley Thaw to her son:

"Have seen Margaret and George. All right. Will see you soon."

The names referred to Thaw's sister and brother-in-law, but the rest of the message might be regarded as somewhat puzzling in view of the later developments.

## Cause of Tragedy



MRS. EVELYN NESBIT THAW.

## Cannot Be Extradited, Verdict of Whitman

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

New York, August 18.—Harry K. Thaw cannot be extradited, according to a dispatch received here from District Attorney Charles S. Whitman early this morning. It was sent from the Mount Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods, N. H., and was as follows:

"Thaw was acquitted, and there is no indictment pending against him in New York. He cannot be extradited."

"C. S. WHITMAN."

## HARRY THAW ESCAPES FROM MATTEAWAN

(Continued from First Page.)

out of New York, forms a striking parallel to that of John Armstrong, who was declared insane in New York and escaped into Virginia, where he lives unmolested.

The New York City police were notified of Thaw's escape within half an hour, and the same information was given to the police in New York, where he lives unmolested.

The official description sent here by telephone was:

"Height, five feet eleven and a quarter inches; weight, 165 pounds; brown hair and eyes and dark complexion."

The police Commissioner Dougherty said that the escape of Thaw would be regarded in the same light as would the escape of a prisoner from Sing Sing. He said he doubted, however, that Thaw could be brought back if taken in another State.

Dr. Kiehl believes the plot to free Thaw was engineered by his relatives, and that several guards and attendants were accessories. He has evidence that six men took active part in the liberation proceedings. Four of the men had been stopping at the Holland House at Matteawan since Friday night. The fifth, said to be the chauffeur of the fast touring car that bore Thaw to Connecticut, arrived on Saturday. The sixth man drove the small car that carried Thaw away from the asylum gate.

**Plan Mapped Out by His Confederates.**

The escape had apparently been carefully planned. The four men believed to have mapped out the plan had been here for two days arriving for its success. The two chauffeurs were the last to arrive. It is probable that the conspirators had been working for some time with the guards and attendants who shared in the plot.

There is no doubt in my mind that employees of this institution are involved in the plot," said Dr. Kiehl. "The escape was executed with amazing rapidity and coolness. Many circumstances make me absolutely certain that Thaw received assistance from the inside as well as the outside. We shall be able to convict the insiders. Those on the outside were undoubtedly Thaw's relatives. The State will expose and prosecute them."

The quiet of the Sabbath morning was well chosen for Thaw's attempt to secure by force what he had failed to get through appeals to the courts—liberty.

At 7:45 A. M. and at that hour the road leading by the asylum is usually free from automobiles. This morning, however, an exception, and the two automobiles used by Thaw had a clear road.

The first machine that he used followed the big touring car, apparently to block off pursuit or to pick up Thaw in case the big car met with any accident.

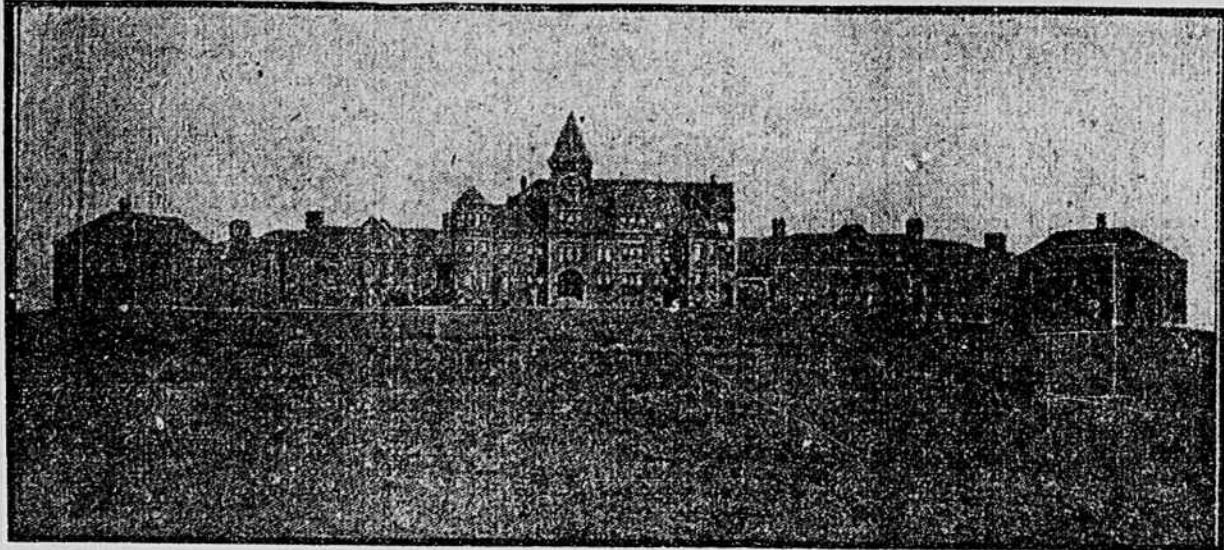
The exact time of Thaw's escape is recorded by a punched card in the asylum office. Every opening of the gate through which the escape was accomplished was recorded by the card at 8:30 A. M. and had breakfast at 8:30 o'clock. Then, with sixteen other patients, he went into the north court for exercise before the Sunday chapel service.

**Keeps Close to Gate for His Dash.**

After the escape, it was remarked that Thaw, while exercising, kept near the gate, whence he was subsequently taken to the north court after the escape, said he made no effort to communicate with any one outside unless by means of whistles which the guards did not notice. The fence around the court yard is eighteen feet high.

The men who furnish milk to the

## Matteawan Asylum, From Which Thaw Escaped



## ANOTHER CHAPTER ADDED TO SENSATIONAL TRAGEDY

Famous Story Opens With Killing of Noted Architect by Thaw.

### MADISON SQUARE IS SCENE

Murder Committed at Close of Performance, With Dramatic Setting.

New York, August 17.—The theatrical escape of Harry K. Thaw from the State Hospital for the Criminal Insane at Matteawan adds another act to the sensational tragedy which had its beginning in New York on the night of June 26, 1906. On that occasion, in company with his young wife, Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, and two friends, Thaw went to the Madison Square garden to witness the opening performance of a musical comedy.

Near the close of the performance Thaw left his seat and began to pace back and forth in the aisle behind the seat occupied by Stanford White, an architect of international fame, and his son. The elder White was fifty-three years old, and in his distinguished career had stamped in many of New York's prominent buildings the mark of his artistic genius. Madison Square Garden itself was one of the architect's triumphs, and he had a

studio in its tower.

In this setting Thaw drew a revolver and fired three bullets into Stanford White's body. The architect died almost instantly.

Thaw stood for a moment over his victim's prostrate body, then walked to the elevator of the roof garden, where he met a house detective, and handed over the revolver without resistance.

Thaw then was arrested by a policeman, and while the officer's hand was on his shoulder, Mrs. Thaw rushed up to her husband and placed her arms around his neck. Thaw assured his wife that it would be "all right" and not to worry.

To this Mrs. Thaw rejoined: "I did not think you would do it that way." And she added: "Never mind, Harry; I'll stick to you through thick and thin."

Thaw at the time of the tragedy was twenty-seven years old, and was known as the "young spendthrift millionaire from Pittsburgh."

William E. Thaw, the father, was a poor mechanic in Pittsburgh, and then made small ventures in coal lands with increasing good fortune.

He was said at one time to be the wealthiest individual owner of the Pennsylvania Railroad. When he died his estate was said to be worth \$40,000,000.

By the will, Harry Thaw was allowed \$2500 a year, but his mother increased this \$50,000 annually.

Evelyn Nesbit married Thaw in Pittsburgh April 4, 1905. She was noted among artists for her beauty, and had

been in turn model and actress.

With Thaw in the Tomb, a legal fight to free him began with his family's millions behind a formidable army of counsel. His first trial resulted in a disbarment. At the second trial the jury acquitted him on the charge of murder on the ground that he was insane when he shot White, and Justice Dowling committed Thaw to Matteawan as an insane criminal.

He entered the asylum February 8, 1908. Since then the Thaw family has spent a sum estimated at \$200,000 in efforts to have Thaw declared sane and set at liberty.

In May, 1908, Supreme Court Justice Morschauser decided against an attempt to release Thaw on habeas corpus proceedings. In June, 1909, a similar writ met the same adverse results, this time before Justice Mills. The case then went to the State Court of Appeals, which sustained the decision of the lower court.

Thaw's third effort, in July, 1912, resulted in Justice Keogh agreeing with the other Supreme Court justices that Thaw still was insane.

There was a scandal recently over alleged attempts to engineer Thaw's release through the attempted bribery of Dr. John W. Russell, former superintendent of the Matteawan Hospital. An inquiry resulted in the indictment of John N. Anhalt, a young New York attorney employed by Thaw. On May 17 last Anhalt was found guilty of offering Dr. Russell a \$20,000 bribe and was sentenced to from two to four years at Sing Sing.

The present superintendent at Matteawan, Dr. Raymond C. Kiehl, was appointed after Dr. Russell resigned.

This was before I learned of the escape of Harry Thaw, and there was no reason for me to pay attention to these details."

Captain Mills was asked to give a description of the yacht.

"Well," he said, "if I remember aright, the name of the yacht was the Katherine. It was a steam yacht, and about sixty feet in length. There was one yellow smokestack and one mast."

Life-savers employed at the hotel baths verified the statement of Captain Mills, who also said that the automobile was covered with dust, and looked as if it had traveled for a considerable distance.

At the Laurel Yacht Club, South Norwalk Point, it was learned that a large yacht, which answered the description of the one which was seen off Roton Point earlier in the day, anchored at the yacht club pier at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

Lloyd's register of American yachts has entered the Katherine, a steam yacht, fifty-four feet in length, which is owned by William E. Ellsworth, of Bayonne, N. J., and Miami, Fla.

**Barnum May Confess.**

Guard Barnum was questioned to-night by Sheriff Hornbeck, Acting District Attorney Mack and representatives of the Burns Detective Agency. He steadily maintained his innocence, declaring Thaw escaped without his knowledge, but at the termination of his examination he was ordered taken to Poughkeepsie.

According to Sheriff Hornbeck, Barnum is expected to confess his part in the plot to free Thaw.

"I think Barnum will confess to a part in the plot to free Thaw," he said. "I think we will learn of large sums offered for Thaw's release."

During Barnum's examination a bolt of lightning struck the women's ward at Matteawan. The shock knocked Mack over, and he injured his scalp. Barnum fell on his knees, apparently panic-stricken, but by the time his questioners had recovered their composure he had also.

Two of the men believed to have aided Thaw's escape appeared at the Holland Hotel on August 16. They registered as Richard J. Butler and Michael O'Keefe, New York. O'Keefe was large, stout and dark complexioned. Butler was taller, slimmer in build, and exceedingly sporty in dress.

Both men seemed to have plenty of money. In the light of to-day's events, it is believed these men were engaged in a reconnaissance, for on Friday they drove up to the hotel with two other men in a dark touring car.

The later arrivals registered as Eugene Duffy and Roger Thompson. The party of four were assigned to adjoining rooms, and on Saturday the four were joined by a man registering as Thomas Flood. He is believed to be the man who drove the larger car to-day, though he arrived at the Holland Hotel in a taxicab machine tallying in description with the smaller car used by Thaw.

From the actions of the five, it was apparent that Butler and O'Keefe were the leaders, with the latter holding the "dough bag." Saturday afternoon all but O'Keefe retired to the touring car. They were gone four hours, and during that time one of the guests sounded out Kieffe as to his reason for being at the hotel.

Ta up here looking for a motorboat," O'Keefe replied in the touring car, to go over to Long Island Sound, being told he couldn't get one at Fish-kill Landing.

Howard H. Barnum, the gateman, whom Thaw studied his dash for the waiting automobile, was lodged in the County Jail at Poughkeepsie to-night on the charge of aiding and abetting Thaw in his escape. Sheriff Hornbeck and John Z. Mack, of the District Attorney's office took Barnum in an automobile to the jail. An all-night "third degree" ordeal awaited him there, it was said.

As soon as possible motor cars were summoned from all the Matteawan garages, and several motorcyclists were pressed into service. Some of the machines sent out were capable of making seventy miles an hour. To spur on the hunt, Dr. Kiehl offered a reward of \$500 to the attendant or volunteer who might be able to catch Thaw within the State. The usual reward is only \$50.

The hope that the Danbury police might be able to catch Thaw within the State was dashed when they learned that the automobile might be headed there, but the police were unable to secure any trace of it.

It is believed the fugitives, figuring out the theory on which the asylum authorities would act, left the Danbury police to report the passage of the Thaw machine was Stormville. The limousine had covered the distance to this place, some miles, in nine minutes. The smaller car was trailing, being then a mile and a half behind.

The pursuers lost time at Stormville seeking information, but dashed on toward Danbury, when told that the two speed machines were going toward that town.

A later report that a machine answering the description of the limousine had passed through Cannanville, Conn., which is two miles from Danbury, had safely passed beyond the control of the New York authorities.

**Abandon the Chase.**

The pursuing automobiles abandoned the chase when they reached the Connecticut State line.

While they had been running down clues, Dr. Kiehl had taken rapid action at Matteawan. He ordered Deputy Sheriff Calhoun to arrest Guard Barnum on the charge of pointing and abetting a prisoner to escape. To-day was the eighteenth anniversary of Barnum's appointment. He is thirty-eight years old.

Dr. Kiehl also sought for information by which he might identify the men who helped Thaw on the outside.

He learned that the two men with the chauffeur in the limousine were both well dressed. Their suits were blue and they wore straw hats. That was about as far as he was able to get.

**May Go Abroad.**

A late report says that Thaw will proceed on the yacht to South America or Europe. Recently he has been avidly reading books on South America, and has gone deep into the extradition laws of practically every country on the face of the earth.

The ridiculous ease with which the escape was effected bore out the statements recently made by certain persons in the employ of the Thaws that "if he had wanted to, Harry could have walked out any time within the last five years."

On June 21 last an associate of one of Thaw's New York attorneys said significantly: "A move will be made soon, and I can promise you that it will be effective."

At South Norwalk, Conn., it was learned to-night that at an early hour a yacht anchored off the Roton Point Hotel, which is two and one-half miles south of South Norwalk, and that at 10 o'clock an automobile answering the description of the one in which Thaw escaped reached the pier and the four occupants were taken in a tender to the yacht. Weighing anchor, the yacht, the name of which is believed to have been the Katherine, headed in the direction of New York.

Captain Mills in charge of the motorboat service of the Roton Point Hotel, said that he had taken particular notice of the yacht, because it was a strange craft. He told of the motor car's arrival.

"Four men stepped out of the automobile," said Captain Mills, "and hurried to the tender. I paid little attention to them, and, of course, I did not take notice of the number of the ma-

chine. This was before I learned of the escape of Harry Thaw, and there was no reason for me to pay attention to these details."

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## Thaw's Victim



STANFORD WHITE.

## Reported That Guard Makes Confession

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., August 18.—Barnum, the Matteawan guard accused of assisting Harry K. Thaw's escape, gave a statement to **Julius Bert Havens** early this morning. It is reported that he has confessed, but the jailer refuses to make the statement public until he has communicated with Sheriff Hornbeck.

## CHALONER GLAD THAW ESCAPED

(Continued from First Page.)

same offense—escaping from insane asylums—the cases of Thaw and Chaloner are identical. Neither can return to the State without being apprehended by the authorities. In the absence of an overt breach of order, neither can be molested outside of New York State.

Chaloner has frequently expressed his belief that Thaw was insane only at the moment when he shot Stanford White. The similarity of their plights caused Chaloner to give Thaw's case close study. Out of it rose his conviction that Thaw has never had a fair trial.

**Tried by Alienists.**

"The records of the case prove that," said Mr. Chaloner last night, speaking on this point. "I have watched the proceedings from start to finish and studied it from its inception. Thaw has never had a fair trial. Under the Constitution of the United States no one can be deprived of his liberty without due process of law and a trial by jury. Thaw never had a fair trial. He was always tried by experts, by alienists, or by a judge without a jury. His last rehearing was before Judge Keogh, of the New York State Supreme Court, and the judge tried the case himself."

"The establishment of the legal principle that alleged lunatics shall be tried by a jury is my life work. I have spent the past seventeen years bringing to the attention of the public the inadequate lunacy laws now in force in many States, and I am willing to devote my life to that end. I am willing to sacrifice my life and property that the worthy of the alleged lunatic class may receive justice and be restored to their right position in life."

**Wife Terrified BY THAW'S ESCAPE**

(Continued from First Page.)

took into consideration conditions at Albany and timed his escape for the right moment. He knows the mix-up between the Governor and the Legislature made the time just right for such an attempt.

"There's another man besides Dr. Flint who has cause to fear Harry. A lawyer named Delafield told Harry's mother that Harry was crazy long before he shot White. Harry never forgave him. He always threatened to do something to him. He's terribly revengeful. He was that way before he killed White. In fact, Harry's trouble with Stanford White started over another girl long before he met me."

Mrs. Thaw refused to name the other woman. Private detectives were used in the hotel to reinforce the uniformed police outside, but police headquarters refused to detail central office detectives to guard her.

**Police Look In Vain.**

Boston, August 17.—The police of New England watched for Harry Thaw in vain to-day. News of his escape was received early in the forenoon, and passed along to the country districts.

At every cross-roads constables watched passing motor cars with extra vigilance, and along the coast marine observers tried to pick up a conspicuous looking motor boat or yacht. But no word of Thaw had been received to-night.

The police operated on two theories. One was that Thaw continued in his automobile through western Connecticut, up into the Berkshires and through Vermont to the Canadian line. The other view was that if Thaw's flight continued into New England, he left New England shores in a motor boat, which carried him outside the three-mile limit at sea, where he was transferred to a yacht.

## THAW IS NOT SAFE IN CONNECTICUT

Officials Intimate That He May Be Returned to New York.

### PRECEDENT FOR ACTION

Frantic Search Is Under Way, but So Far Without Results.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Hartford, Conn., August 17.—State's Attorney Hugh M. Alcorn, of Hartford County, announced to-night that if Harry K. Thaw should take refuge in Hartford County he would be turned over to the New York authorities.

Attorney-General John H. Light refused to forecast this State's action, but Governor Baldwin intimated that there was precedent for Thaw's surrender to New York if taken in this State.

**Search Is Futile.**

Danbury, Conn., August 17.—Word of the escape from the Matteawan, N. Y., Asylum of Harry K. Thaw was received here in the early forenoon, and the police began a close watch for out-of-the-State cars. It was reported during the day that an automobile party had been seen on the highway coming from Brewster, N. Y., but it did not reach here.

A report that a bungalow was that in the hills a few miles from this city there is a bungalow which recently was placed in readiness for a house party. It is in a secluded spot, and can be reached only by a long tramp over an hill. Its exact location has not been revealed.

**Absolutely Nothing to Say.**

Bar Harbor, Maine, August 17.—Benjamin Thaw and his family, of Pittsboro, are stopping at a hotel here. Mr. Thaw learned of the escape of his brother Harry from Matteawan Asylum from newspaper men to-day, but refused to discuss the matter.